

Million Dollar Arm
By Lorraine Viade, PsyD



Million Dollar Arm is a feel good movie about dreams that come true and is as predictable as they come, but done in a way that neither offends nor overly excites. It really isn't about the sport of baseball. It is more about the game of life. This is a gentle, humorous ride with messages about family, responsibility and finding your place in the world away from home. Jon Hamm is perfectly cast as an agent who is desperately looking for a way to generate buzz and revenue in the baseball world. He becomes an unwilling mentor to two young men from India who must leave everything behind for a chance at the big league. It is hard not to make comparisons here to Hamm's character in *Mad Men*.

There are lots of sweet exchanges between the characters who are brought together by unusual circumstances but who, over time, develop lasting relationships. Finding what you are looking for in life takes courage, risk and willingness to give up your comfort for the sake of a better life. *Million Dollar Arm* is based loosely in fact and is the sort of movie you can take the kids and grandparents to. The scenes in India remind us that we are fortunate enough to appreciate that many people never get the chance to live their dreams—or even to have them. Children need to believe that they can have influence on their futures. They need to believe that they can work hard and become successful.

Heroes are not just in the comic books. They are the coaches, teachers and mentors who give children the opportunity to succeed in life. Children need to believe in someone who knows struggle and has overcome it. The young men in the film were blessed with the good fortune to have their lives changed and to change the lives of others. Transformation can come when the teacher is taught by the students and wisdom comes from being willing to learn.

Take your Red Vines and popcorn and head out to see *Million Dollar Arm*. I give it 3 pitchers. This is a good matinee movie.

